



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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September 9, 2002

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: James A. Noyes
Director of Public Works

SEMI-ANNUAL STATUS REPORT ON THE COUNTY INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Attached is the status report of the County Integrated Waste Management Plan for the period February 2002 through August 2002. The most critical issues are summarized below.

The California Integrated Waste Management Board is in the process of reviewing cities' and counties' compliance with the AB 939 50 percent waste reduction mandate for the year 2000.

Using our consultants' studies, we have estimated the County unincorporated areas' year 2000 diversion rate to be 52 percent. However, the Waste Board requires the use of State Disposal Reporting System data to determine a jurisdiction's estimated diversion rate. Utilizing DRS data, the waste diversion rate is estimated at 30 percent which is significantly below the 50 percent waste reduction mandate. On May 9, Waste Board staff recommended that the County file a Time Extension Request with the State. We are in the process of developing the request working with Waste Board staff.

The current Conditional Use Permit for Puente Hills Landfill will expire on October 31, 2003. On January 23, 2002, the Board of Directors of the County Sanitation Districts certified an Environmental Impact Report for the continued operation of the Landfill for an additional ten-year period beyond the expiration of the existing CUP. On February 12, 2002, the Sanitation Districts filed an application for the continued operation of the Landfill for approximately ten more years with the Department of Regional Planning. The Regional Planning Commission will be conducting public hearings on the proposal which are scheduled for September 5, 18, and October 2, 2002. Public Works is currently reviewing a revised Traffic Study prepared by the Sanitation Districts for the project.

The new CUP for the City/County of Los Angeles Sunshine Canyon Landfill is currently under consideration by the Department of Regional Planning, and Browning Ferris Industries, Inc. (BFI), the owner/operator of the Landfill, has requested that the Regional Planning Commission set a date in January 2003 for consideration of this application.

BFI's application for a Solid Waste Facility Permit for the Landfill in the City of Los Angeles was rejected by the City's Environmental Affairs Department (the State-approved Local Enforcement Agency in the City) since BFI had failed to obtain a Finding of Conformance with the Countywide Siting Element from the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force. As of this date, BFI has not filed an application with the Task Force.

The formation of a Garbage Disposal District in the Lennox area is moving forward. Pursuant to your Board's action of August 20, a special mailed ballot election will be held on October 22, 2002.

On July 1, 2002, residents and businesses in the Belvedere Garbage Disposal District began receiving automated refuse collection and recycling services. The new program has been well received by the community and has resulted in improved services to the District's customers, enhanced waste diversion, and a general improvement in the appearance of the communities served during garbage collection day. The program was rolled out in just over two months from the Board's approval of the contract for the services and incorporated an extensive community outreach effort to inform residents about the new program and address any concerns of the residents.

Athens Services, owner/operator of the Athens Materials Recovery Facility in the unincorporated area of Basset, has filed an application with the Department of Regional Planning for the expansion of the facility to increase the maximum daily tonnage of waste received from 1,920 to 8,500 tons per day. A draft Environmental Impact Report is currently being prepared for the project. Public Works has recommended that the EIR is to consider the impact of the Alameda Corridor East construction in the analysis of the project's cumulative traffic impact.

We recently informed you that Public Works, in concert with the Sanitation Districts and other stakeholders, completed an evaluation of potential alternatives for the proper management of e-waste from residents. This included a pilot program conducted by the Sanitation Districts to demonstrate and evaluate the need and interest in e-waste collection.

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Based on the results of our evaluation and the Sanitation Districts' pilot program, we recommended the incorporation of e-waste collection into the Countywide Household Hazardous Waste Collection program as the most effective way to serve residents of the County. A joint letter from Public Works and the Sanitation Districts will be notifying all cities of the expanded collection program. The program expansion is anticipated to start on October 5, 2002.

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Attach.

cc: Chief Administrative Office
Executive Office
County Sanitation Districts
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force